

REMARKS

Claims 18, 19, and 23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 20 is canceled and claim 18 is amended. No new matter is added.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENT

Claim 18 amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claims 25 and 26.

II. §102 REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US 168 (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,168 to Ushifusa et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The November 2, 2004, Office Action indicated that the subject matter of previous claims 25 and 26 was allowable over US 168. As discussed above, claim 18 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 25 and 26. Thus, claim 18 is allowable over US 168 for at least the same reasons as previous claims 25 and 26. Claim 19 depends from claim 18 and includes all of its limitations. Accordingly, claim 19 is patentable over US 168 for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. §103 REJECTION

The Office Action rejects claims 18-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over US 303 (U.S. Patent No. 4,429,303 to Aboelfotoh) in view of US 958 (U.S. Patent No. 5,509,958 to Van de Leest). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 20 is canceled, rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

The November 2, 2004, Office Action indicated that the subject matter of previous claims 25 and 26 was allowable over US 303, alone or in view of US 958. As discussed above, claim 18 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 25 and 26. Thus, claim 18 is allowable over US 303, alone or in view of US 958, for at least the

same reasons as previous claims 25 and 26. Claims 19 and 23 depend from claim 18 and include all of its limitations. Accordingly, claims 19 and 23 are patentable over US 303, alone or in view of US 958, for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claims 18-20 and 23 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over US 506 (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,506). The Office Action also provisionally rejects claims 18-20 and 23 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over US 415 (U.S. Patent Application No. 10/164,415). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 20 is canceled, rendering the rejection of this claim moot.

The November 2, 2004, Office Action indicated that previous claims 25 and 26 contained allowable subject matter. Claims 25 and 26 were not rejected over US 506 or US 415. As discussed above, claim 18 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of canceled claims 25 and 26. Thus, claim 18 is allowable over US 506 and US 415 for at least the same reasons as previous claims 25 and 26. Claims 19 and 23 depend from claim 18 and include all of its limitations. Accordingly, claims 19 and 23 are allowable over US 506 and US 415 for at least the same reasons as claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner maintains either or both of the double-patenting rejections in a further Office Action, Applicants will file any necessary Terminal Disclaimer(s) in response to that further Office Action.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 18, 19, and 23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:PAC

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 11, 2005

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